

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03

FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 ABF-01 DIWY-01 /149 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3017

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

MTN DEL GENEVA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN EAGR

SUBJ: 30TH UNGA----AGENDA ITEM 60: US STATEMENT ON FOOD
PROBLEMS

TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT DELIVERED
BY JOHN HAUGH, US REPRESENTATIVE, ON OCTOBER 17 IN COMMITTEE
II ON FOOD PROBLEMS

MAY I BEGIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, BY JOINING WITH OTHERS IN EXPRESS-
ING MY DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION TO DR. HANNAH, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOR HIS INTRODUCTION
OF THIS ITEM. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BOTH BY THE LUCIDITY
AND THOROUGHNESS OF HIS REPORT AND BY HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS
IN THIS AREA OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US. WE
HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PREVIOUS SPEAKERS ON THIS ITEM AND
FIND THAT WE SHARE WITH THEM A GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT
THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND A BELIEF THAT URGENT
AND COOPERATIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

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I THINK THAT I NEED TO REMIND NO ONE HERE OF THE MAJOR IMPORTANCE MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION OF FOOD. WE DO SO FOR MANY REASONS. THE UNITED STATES IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF FOOD AS WELL AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD PRODUCER. THUS WE HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE STAKE IN HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PARTICULAR SECTOR OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE TOTAL INTEREST IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SIMPLY ALTRUISMIC--WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, OUR OWN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS INEXTRICABLY BOUND TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF OTHERS. THIS INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS IS EVIDENCED BY THE GROWING WORLD TRADE IN FOOD. FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY GOVERNMENT IS SENSITIVE TO THE HUMANE DIMENSIONS INVOLVED. THIS GOES BEYOND RESPONDING TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED IN TODAY'S WORLD. IT MEANS RESPONDING TO PEOPLE'S HOPES FOR THE FUTURE, FOR A LIFE OF SECURITY AND DIGNITY. THUS, WE LIKE OTHERS THOUGHT IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT DR. HANNAH CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING: "IN THE END, IT IS ONLY THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IMPORTANT."

THE BASIC APPROACH OF MY GOVERNMENT TO FOOD PROBLEMS WAS SET FORTH IN SOME DETAIL IN THE STATEMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN NEGOTIATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO REVIEW THIS POLICY IN DETAIL NOW, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO RESTATE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT.

--THE PROBLEM MUST BE APPROACHED GLOBALLY, COMPREHENSIVELY, AND COOPERATIVELY, BY CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION AMONG ALL SIGNIFICANT PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS:
--PRODUCERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE GLOBAL INTEREST IN STABILITY OF SUPPLY, AND CONSUMERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE INTEREST OF PRODUCERS IN STABILITY OF MARKETS AND EARNINGS;
--SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND
--WHERE VOLATILE DEMAND IS COMBINED WITH LIMITED ABILITY TO MAKE SHORT-TERM INCREASES IN PRODUCTION, BUFFER STOCKS MAY BE THE BEST APPROACH TO ACHIEVING GREATER SECURITY

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FOR BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

THE WORLD'S CONCERN FOR FOOD PROBLEMS WAS MOST COMPREHENSIVELY EXPRESSED AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1974. THE DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS AGREED TO THERE PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH DESERVE OUR MOST SERIOUS COMMITMENT. IT WAS THEN AND REMAINS THE CASE TODAY THAT WIDE PARTICIPATION--ESPECIALLY BY MAJOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS--IS ESSENTIAL

IF THE INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES REQUIRED
FOR A WORLD FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT
EFFECTIVELY.

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION RE-ENFORCED THE
BASIC COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. IN
PREVIOUS STATEMENTS IN THIS COMMITTEE, OTHERS HAVE NOTED THE
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERE WHICH MARKED THAT
SESSION--A MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION TOWARDS A MUTUAL ADJUSTMENT
OF NATIONAL INTERESTS IN GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. IN OUR VIEW,
THIS IS TRUE AND IT IS IMPORTANT. BUT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS
THIS IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERICS ARE THE SPECIFICS
WE AGREED TO AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SEVENTH. JUST TO
MENTION A FEW:

- TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
- IN SUPPORT OF THIS, TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE VOLUME OF
ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PRODUCTION;
- TO WORK AT REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES;
- TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF THE WORK OF THE EXISTING
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS;
- TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF A MINIMUM FOOD AID TARGET
AND THE CONCEPT OF FORWARD PLANNING OF FOOD AID;
- TO BUILD UP AND MAINTAIN WORLD FOOD RESERVES, HELD BY
IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

THE LISTING OF COMMITMENTS IS NEITHER COMPLETE NOR MEANT
TO INDICATE ANY PRIORITY. I SIMPLY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION MOVED BEYOND ATMOSPHERICS AND
INVOLVED COMMITMENTS OF A PRACTICAL NATURE. IT IS NOW OUR TASK
TO WORK TO FULFILL THEM EVEN THOUGH THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED ARE
COMPLEX, SENSITIVE, AND WILL REQUIRE CONTINUING
EFFORTS.

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IN THAT REGARD I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES RECORD IN
THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE:

--THIS FISCAL YEAR THE UNITED STATES FOOD AID BUDGET PROVIDES
FOR THE SHIPMENT OF ALMOST 6 MILLION TONS OF FOOD AGRAIN--60
PERCENT OF THE WORLD TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS AND AN INCREASE
OF 20 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR'S SHIPMENTS.

--WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIA-
TIONS IN GENEVA TO GIVE EFFECTIVE PRIORITY TO THE PROBLEMS
OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF EARNINGS
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE STATED OUR INTENTION
TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS DEALING
WITH COFFEE, COCOA AND SUGAR.

--ALSO IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, WE
HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL COUNTRIES.

--ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED BEFORE A
WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL A PROPOSAL
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY
HELD GRAIN RESERVES. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR EARLY PROGRESS
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ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO THAT END.

--AS SECRETARY KISSINGER ANNOUNCED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL
SESSION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION
FOR CONGRESS TO CONTRIBUTE \$200 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED OTHERS DO THEIR FAIR SHARE
SO THAT A FUND OF AT LEAST ONE BILLION DOLLARS CAN BE
ESTABLISHED.

--DOMESTICALLY, WE ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF MAXIMUM
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SO AS TO PERMIT US TO CONTINUE OUR

CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FOOD NEEDS. WE ARE PROUD OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES FARMER IN HELPING TO MEET THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE WORLD IN THE PAST. WE ARE SURE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS PART. MAXIMUM EFFICIENT AMERICAN PRODUCTION REMAINS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR POLICY GOALS WHICH ALSO INCLUDE INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD TO MEET ITS OWN FOOD NEEDS.

A FINAL GENERAL COMMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN. RESOLUTION VIII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE DEALT WITH WOMEN AND FOOD. SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR TREATED THE SAME ISSUE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO RE-EMPHASIZE ITS CONVICTION THAT AS WE DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF FOOD, WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT IN MANY COUNTRIES WOMEN PLAY THE PRIMARY ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD. GIVEN THIS AS WELL AS OUR GENERAL BELIEF THAT WOMEN SHOULD ENJOY THEIR FULL RIGHTS AS HUMAN BEINGS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN THE DECISION MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING PROCESSES.

TURNING NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO SPECIFIC ITEMS BEFORE US UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, ECOSOC DECISION 118(LIX) RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS:FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AS A COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. MY DELEGATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS DRAFT RESOLUTION. IN ADDITION THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM DURING THE 1977-78 BIENNIUM. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL MY DELEGATION AFFIRMS THE UNITED STATES POSITION TO SUPPORT A \$750 MILLION TARGET FOR THIS PROGRAM. WE FEEL THIS INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT TARGET OF \$440 MILLION CAN EASILY BE HANDLED.

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ALTHOUGH OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE ITS PLEDGE TO THE PROGRAM'S 1977-78 BIENNIUM TARGET UNTIL THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE IN EARLY 1976, WE CAN SAY THAT OUR PLEDGE WILL BE INCREASED AND WILL CONSIST OF THE TRADITIONAL COMPOSITION; A PLEDGE OF MONIES FOR COMMODITIES AND THEIR TRANSPORTATION AND OF CASH FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

WE LISTENED WITH GREAT ATTENTION TO THE REPORT BY DR. HANNAH ON THE RESULTS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES DEALING WITH THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. AS I INDICATED EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A FUND AND HAS ALREADY INITIATED EFFORTS TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. WE ARE PLEASED THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DEFINING

THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE FUND TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A MEETING OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, OCTOBER 27-31. WE HOPE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE AND ADOPT THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF IFAD AND OBTAIN INDICATIONS OF PLEDGES FROM THOSE COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME ASSOCIATE MY DELEGATION WITH COMMENTS BY MANY SPEAKERS WHO HAVE UNDERSCORED THE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN THE FOOD SECTOR WITHOUT WHICH DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF MANY COUNTRIES MUST FALTER AND FAIL. THE TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS EXIST TO ASSURE PROGRESS. MY DELEGATION IS CONVICTED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY CAN GENERATE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL AND THAT AN ENCOURAGING BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE.

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